

In re Appln. of Alan F. Savicki
Application No. 09/979,525

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner James R. Brittain for his time and effort during the telephonic interview on October 15, 2003 with applicant's attorney, John Augustyn. The interview discussed: the nature of the invention; the pending Office Action; the references cited including U.S. Patent 5,301,394 to Richardson; the pending claims including claim 1; and a possible amendment to claim 1.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-67. Applicant has added new claims 68-148. Independent claims 68, 89, 107 and 128 correspond to original independent claims 1, 22, 40 and 61 and include the following additional language "wherein said first jaw is positioned above the fastening strips in the Z axis". In addition, dependent claims 69-88 substantially correspond to original dependent claims 2-21, dependent claims 90-106 substantially correspond to original dependent claims 23-39, dependent claims 108-127 substantially correspond to dependent original claims 41-60; dependent claims 129-134 substantially correspond to original dependent claims 62-67 and dependent claims 135-148 substantially correspond to a similar claim set in the prior dependent claim sets, for example, original dependent claims 75-88.

Pursuant to the telephonic interview, applicant believes that the pending claims are allowable.

Applicant's attorney submitted an Associate Power of Attorney on October 13, 2003 via facsimile.

Enclosed with this Response to the Office Action is an Information Disclosure Statement.

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Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Augustyn, Reg. No. 33,589
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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